

September 2003

SOUTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Phil Tilt

Overview

The Southern Command percentage of staffed sergeant and trooper positions continued to drop for September 2003 as compared to September 2002. There were 11.1% fewer traffic sergeant and trooper field positions filled in September 2003 as compared to September 2002, and there continues to be 38.5% commercial trooper position vacancy rate. During the month of September 2003 there was a 17.4% increase in overall crashes as compared to September 2002. Southern Command personnel increased total enforcement in September 2003, by 18% as compared to September 2002, and increased total enforcement by 11% over August 2003. Once again, I compliment Southern Command personnel for their hard work and dedication toward the accomplishment of our mission under increasingly difficult circumstances.

Southern Command personnel handled 1,019 crashes throughout September 2003 as compared to 868 total crashes in September 2002. Total crashes went up 17.4%. The most notable change is Fatal crashes. Fatal crashes went down 42.9%. Total persons killed went down 50%. There were a total of four Fatal crashes in September 2003 and four people died.

Southern Command Commercial Operations continues to increase their activity in many areas compared to September 2002. Some notable areas are a 180% increase in hazardous moving violations, 56.6% increase in total safety inspections, a 58.6% increase in trucks weighed, and a 85% increase in total overweight citations. There was an 8.7% increase in the overall number of commercial vehicle involved crashes. We had 75 total commercial crashes in the month of September 2003 as compared to 69 commercial vehicle crashes in September 2002. One of the commercial crashes in September 2003 was fatal and there were 17 injury crashes. Commercial crashes were 7.4% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command. Southern Command will continue to focus our enforcement efforts on hazardous commercial moving violations and out of service violations.

Southern Command continues to operate with a substantial number of vacancies but is anticipating the October 24, 2003 graduation of the first new hires in over two years. Even with the high vacancy rate, the Southern Command is seeing some very positive improvements in the overall activity level and specifically with regard toward hazardous moving violations and occupant restraint enforcement.

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CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	September 2003		September 2002	% Change		August 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	1019		868	17.4%		992	2.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	741		601	23.3%		721	2.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	274		260	5.4%		269	1.9%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		7	-42.9%		2	100.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	36		37	-2.7%		57	-36.8%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		8	-50.0%		2	100.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		4	-75.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		2	-200.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed -- seatbelts not applicable	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	75		69	8.7%		82	-8.5%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	57		50	14.0%		68	-16.2%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	17		16	6.3%		14	21.4%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		3	-66.7%		0	100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.4%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.5%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 7.4%

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

Analysis of the crash data table this month reveals a 17% increase in total crashes over the same period last year, with a raw increase of 27 crashes over the previous month. This month, property damage accidents saw the largest increase of 23.3% over the previous year, but only a 2.8% increase over the previous month which is a raw number of 20 crashes. Injury accidents increased 5.4% over the same reporting period last year, with an increase of 1.9% over the previous month. The 1.9% of previous months' increase relates to a raw number increase of five accidents. Fatal crashes decreased 42.9% over the same reporting period last year which is a raw number decrease of three. Fatal crashes increased by two over the previous month.

Information obtained from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority shows an increase in population in Clark County over the past year of 6.1%. This 6.1% increase in population equates to an average of 6,849 new residents moving into Clark County per month. With this high number of new citizens moving to Las Vegas it is anticipated there would be an increase in the number of accidents occurring on the highways within Las Vegas Valley. The increase of accidents (2.8% property and 1.9% injury) is well below the average monthly increase of citizens moving into Clark County.

The reduction in fatalities over the year period can be attributed to the increase of Occupant restraint enforcement of 65.2%. This increased enforcement added emphasis in seatbelt usage to help decrease unrestrained fatalities within Clark County.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	September 2003		September 2002	% Change		August 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	36		37	-2.7%		57	-36.8%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	111		131	-15.3%		125	-11.2%
Other Arrests	822		833	-1.3%		755	8.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	348		357	-2.5%		341	2.1%
Speed violations	2855		2836	0.7%		2882	-0.9%
Hazardous moving violations	2310		1777	30.0%		1910	20.9%
Occupant restraint violations *	669		405	65.2%		515	29.9%
Total violations [above violations included]	10220		8664	18.0%		9204	11.0%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	56		20	180.0%		59	-5.1%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	157		179	-12.3%		142	10.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	606		387	56.6%		401	51.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR ONLY	22		129	-82.9%		2	1000.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	187		173	8.1%		195	-4.1%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1956		2050	-4.6%		1535	27.4%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	124		108	14.8%		105	18.1%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	30		51	-41.2%		50	-40.0%
Total school buses inspected	155		223	-30.5%		195	-20.5%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	20		25	-20.0%		20	0.0%
Total trucks weighed	257		162	58.6%		59	335.6%
Total overweight citations	52		28	85.7%		10	420.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	628		126	398.4%		407	54.3%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

The overall enforcement activity was up 18% as compared with the same month last year and shows an increase of 11% over the previous month of the same year. The overall activity shows 1,556 more violations from the previous year and 1,016 more violations from the previous month.

DUI arrests prior to crashes, showed a decrease of 15.3% (20 less) than the previous year, and decreased 11.2% (6 less) from the previous month. Hazardous moving violations increased 30.0% (533 more) than the previous year, and increased 20.9% (400 more) than the previous month. Occupant Restraint Violations increased 65.2% (264 more) than the previous year, and increased 29.9% (154 more) than the previous month.

The increase in activity is reflective of the special enforcement emphasis that is placed in directed enforcement that targets hazardous moving violations. Along with this directed enforcement, zero tolerance toward occupant restraint violations and an active education program have increased the public's awareness that seatbelt usage saves lives.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
STAFFING	September 2003	September 2002	September 2003	September 2002	September 2003	September 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	161	89	114	59.7%	70.8%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	16	19	61.5%	63.3%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	4	5	80.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	September 2003		September 2002	% Change	August 2003	% Change
Annual leave	1457.95		1737	-16.1%	1832.75	-20.5%
Compensatory leave	379.4		243.5	55.8%	469.75	-19.2%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1436		1522.5	-5.7%	1683	-14.7%
Military leave	352		160	120.0%	336	4.8%
Holiday off	72		70	2.9%	0	7200.0%
Training	1709.75		2213.66	-22.8%	1936.5	-11.7%
Administrative leave	13		89	-85.4%	198	-93.4%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	10380		10034	3.4%	12283	-15.5%
Total work hours lost	15800.1		16069.66	-1.7%	18739	-15.7%
OVERTIME	September 2003		September 2002	% Change	August 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2102.24		2626.9	-20.0%	2640.68	-20.4%
Compensatory overtime claimed	205.47		203.35	1.0%	200.75	2.4%
Total overtime hours	2307.71		2830.25	-18.5%	2841.43	-18.8%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	September 2003		September 2002	% Change	August 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	31140		33908	-8.2%	31140	0.0%
Work hours lost	15800.1		16069.66	-1.7%	18739	-15.7%
Overtime	2307.71		2830.25	-18.5%	2841.43	-18.8%
Total hours worked	17647.61		20668.59	-14.6%	15242.43	15.8%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

STAFFING / WORK HOURS/ COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

STAFFING LEVELS

The Southern Command Commissioned Staffing remained unchanged for the first time in recent months. There were no resignations from the sworn ranks. The loss of road staffing due to leave and training exceeded the equivalent of 29 trooper positions or one-third of the remaining staff. This was down from 36 positions lost last month.

By factoring the loss of manpower created by vacancies, leave and training, the average field operations traffic position in the Southern Command investigated 17 crashes, arrested two DUI drivers, and issued 154 traffic citations for the month.

OVERTIME

Overtime continues to drop from prior year averages. This month overtime decreased another 18% overall compared to last month and last year at this time.

CONTRACT SERVICES

Contract Service agreements had a significant increase during September, recording 268.50 hours of contract time from 13 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$9,716.50 with \$8,824.00 still pending in overtime costs. This brings the NHP total Contract Service Overtime for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 to 914.50 hours from 35 contracts which reimbursed a total of \$31,046.50.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

September staffing for Commercial Enforcement remained unchanged at 16 commissioned troopers and sergeants, and four CVSI's.

Currently, staffing distribution remains unchanged from August. Three commercial troopers are temporarily assigned to traffic operations; two to Urban-Las Vegas and one to Rural-Laughlin District. One Commercial trooper is permanently assigned to the Glendale District. Of the 26 authorized commercial positions, 12 (three sergeants and nine troopers) are currently assigned to Las Vegas Commercial Operations.

On September 4, 2003 the Southern Command Commercial Enforcement personnel participated in Operation Air Brake 2003. The Sloan check site was opened for both Day shift, and Swing shift. Fifty nine level IV inspections were accomplished. From those 59 , five vehicles were placed out of service.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS

Ratio of crashes per Traffic position	
Total	11.4
Property	8.3
Injury	3.1
Fatal	0.0
DUI	0.4
Commercial vehicle	0.8
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0
without seatbelts	0.5
with seatbelts	0.3

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.4
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.2
Other Arrests	9.2
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.9
Speed violations	32.1
Hazardous moving violations	26.0
Occupant restraint violations	7.5
Total violations	114.8

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

The Traffic Enforcement Ratios can be broken down further to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

Traffic troopers assigned to the Rural areas of the Southern Command had a crash ratio of three crashes per staffed field operations position. Eighty citations were issued per staffed position and 0.2 DUI arrest were made per position.

In the Urban area the crash ratio was 13 crashes per staffed traffic position. One hundred citations were issued per staffed field position and two DUI arrests were made per position.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	3.5
Other traffic violations - citations	*	9.8
Total safety inspections [all levels]		30.3
Terminal inspections TIP		1.1
Total safety violations -- citation	*	11.7
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.3
Total safety violations -- repair order		97.8
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.2
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		6.2
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		1.5
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.0
Total school buses inspected		7.8
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.0
Total trucks weighed	*	16.1
Total overweight citations	*	3.3
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	39.3
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.0

* Commercial sworn only

The ratios for Commercial enforcement per Commercial position have increased. Hazardous citations decreased from 3.7 to 3.5 per position. Total safety inspections are up from 20.1 to 30.3 per commercial trooper. Total vehicles weighed are up from 3.7 to 16.1. Dyed fuel inspections are up from 25.4 to 39.3 and dyed fuel citations decreased from 0.1 to 0.0.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Commercial specific activity increased over the previous month in the following areas; total safety inspections increased by 51%; total safety violations - repair order, increased by 27% while out-of-service violations increased by 18%. The most significant increase in activity was due to weight enforcement. Total trucks weighed increased by 335% while total overweight citations increased by 420%. Because of the increase in total inspections, dyed fuel inspections increased by 54%. The Commercial enforcement section of the Southern Command increased their overall safety inspections from 401 to 606 as compared to August. One hundred and twenty one of those inspections were conducted as Level 1 inspections.

Total Commercial vehicle crashes decreased from 82 for the month of August, to 75 for the month of September. Of those 75 crashes, 57 were property damage, 17 were injury, and one was fatal. The fatality was the result of pedestrian error. The variation on crashes between Day shift and Swing shift is nominal with a minimal number occurring on Grave shift.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

EVIDENCE VAULT

The evidence vault AAIL position will be filled in October. The evidence vault booked in 174 items during September from 99 new cases. This is a 5.95% decrease from the month before or a 32.91% cumulative decrease from fiscal 2002/2003. An analysis of the items submitted found that 83.3% were submitted by NHP, 6.9% submitted by Parole and Probation, and 9.8% from Nevada Division of Investigation. Currently the new Administrative Sergeant, is training in this area.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

During the month of September, the Southern Command Communications Center was impacted by the loss of two more dispatchers. This brings the total working personnel down to 11 with two still in training. Currently there are six applicants in their second month of the background phase.

Preliminary reports for Southern Command CAD Incidents reached an all time high of 17,422 with radio transmissions totaling 150,026. Telephone calls for the month of September were 34,339 compared to that of 2002 which were 36,824. For the fiscal year average telephone calls received by the Communications Center have increased by two hundred and seventy one per day or a 31.7% increase.

The Media Link proposal is currently under development in Headquarters. The suggestion was made to attempt to make certain CAD incident information available on the Official Nevada Highway Patrol Website. This would provide real time information to the transportation industry and news media. Initial tests have proven successful at extracting information from the CAD database and displaying it to a webpage. The Media Link will continue in development during the month of October.

The Southern Command Center initiated and implemented electronic distribution of the CAD shift bulletin thus eliminating the hard copy distribution. An improved method of providing informational teletypes was developed by the CID team and adopted by the Communications Center. The Southern Command had initiated electronic distribution of the teletypes using tables and has proven to be more user friendly than previous word processing based templates.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS *Cont'd*

RECORDS SECTION

The Records section processed 1,054 crash reports during September. 59 of those reports were "office reports". Over 5,836 crash reports were mailed out to Insurance Companies, Attorney Offices, and local prosecutors.

In addition to the release of public records, over 127 vehicles were released after being impounded for improper registration.

The Records Sections front office had over 811 visitors requesting services from the Nevada Highway Patrol.

OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS

Eleven of the 59 office reports were the result of Hit and Run drivers. In September, we cleared eleven Hit and Run investigations.

COURT SERVICES SECTION

The Court Services Section received 477 bench warrants from area courts during September. Five hundred eleven warrants were entered into the Criminal Justice Information System with another 347 cleared from the same system. The Section also validated over 6,315 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness.

Two out-of-state extraditions and ten in-state transports were completed through the coordination of the Court Services Section,. A program to reduce in-state transports was initiated with the majority of Southern Command courts. This allows the NHP to accept bail on behalf of the court. Court Services accepted bail for two suspects in lieu of transporting the prisoners.

PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS

Kelly Alford
Laura Thibodeau

COMMENDATIONS

- A citizen wrote to thank Brandi Estes for her assistance and courtesy.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Zbinden for his assistance with changing a flat tire.
- A citizen wrote to thank Lieutenant Cabrales for jump starting a car.
- Two citizens wrote to thank Trooper Stuehling for his assistance and professionalism.
- Four citizens wrote to thank Trooper Wolff for the excellent job she has done with the Driver's Edge program.
- Two citizens wrote to thank Trooper Cunag for his professional demeanor, compassion, and emotional support at the scene of two fatal accidents.
- "98.5 KLUC" radio station wrote to thank Trooper Wolff for participating in a live interview regarding the HEAT program.

COMMENDATIONS Cont...

- Driver's Edge wrote and thanked Trooper Wolff for her outstanding support with this program.
- The Command Staff provided commendation letters to personnel for their participation with the .08 project, as well as the Vice Presidential Motorcade.
- Lieutenant Hensley provided a commendation letter to Trooper Davidson for his dedicated service and professional efforts while performing the duties as acting Sergeant.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

CVSA Operation Air Brake

Channel 3 and the Las Vegas Sun; full coverage of The NHP Commercial Brake Check Site
September 4

98.5 KLUC live interview H.E.A.T

For one hour, H.E.A.T. answered questions about seatbelt safety and motorcycle dangers
September 9

NAFB Incoming Airman's Briefing

Explained local DUI traffic laws to newly assigned Airman (50 Airmen)
September 9

Channel 1 and 8 interview "Troopers at War"

Story focus on the impact of our Troopers serving their country
September 9

Boy Scouts of America: 18 young men received traffic safety badges from Trooper Bogden after completing a traffic safety test
September 10

Channel 3 "Women of NHP"

Sgt. Johnson, Trooper Daly, and Trooper Wolff story to be ran Nov.11th
September 15

Commercial Safety Rodeo at the Orleans Hotel

Recruiting, Commercial safety and other traffic laws discussed (5,000 citizens)
September 20

Stop DUI / NHP: Bahama Breeze Restaurant news conference

All local media participated with Government officials on the .08 law
September 22

".08 PROJECT"

All local media talents/DA's office and local attorneys participated with a drinking and driving demonstration. Six Troopers with outstanding DUI arrest used at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway
September 22

NAFB Safety Day

Explained local DUI Traffic laws to the 66th Rescue Squadron (200 airmen)
September 30

NAFB Incoming Airman's Briefing

Explained local DUI traffic laws to newly assigned Airman (50 Airmen)
September 30

Nevada Highway
Patrol

Southern Command

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PROJECTS

Ground breaking new NHP / FAST / building.



2003 Determined Promise Exercise

*“In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing,
the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”*

Theodore Roosevelt